

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 10819 121111Z

13
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
----- 098191

O P 121028Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6028
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

S E C R E T CAIRO 10819

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG PFOR EG IS
SUBJ: AMOCO GULF OF SUEZ EXPLORATION: ISRAELI HARRASSMENT

REF: CAIRO 10517

1. AMOCO (CRAIG) ADVISES THAT THEY HAVE MOVED DRILL-SHIP MENTIONED REFTTEL BACK TO PLATFORM NO. 3 AS INITIALLY PLANNED. MOVE WAS EVIDENTLY COMPLETED ABOUT AUGUST 9, WITHOUT FURTHER INCIDENT. COMPANY NOW BELIEVES RIG MAY INDEED HAVE DRIFTED EAST OF "MEDIAN LINE", WHICH THEY HASTENED TO POINT OUT DOES NOT EXIST, AT TIME OF EARLIER COMPLAINT.

2. IN THIS CONNNECTION, COMPANY IS SOMEWHAT CONCERNED OVER FORTHCOMING POSSIBILE MOVE OF U.S. - OWNED (SANTE FE) DRILLSHIP MARINER TO LOCATION IDENTIFIED AS SITE 304-1, EAST OF RAMADAN FIELD. AMOCO GAVE LOCATION AS LATITUDE 28 DEGREES, 16 MINUTES, 59.84 NORTH, AND LONGITUDE 33 DEGREES, 20 MINUTES, 40.13 EAST. MOVEMENT TO THIS SITE MAY TAKE PLACE IN THREE TO FIVE DAYS, AND COMPANY IS ANXIOUS ABOUT POSSIBILITIES OF INVOLVEMENT WITH ISRAELIS BECAUSE OF PROXIMITY TO UNRECOGNIZED MEDIAN LINE. FYI: AMOCO MANAGER CRAIG SAYS THAT ON BASIS GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION, SITE MAY BE "JUST BARELY" WEST OF LINE. ON BASIS RIGHT ANGLES

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 CAIRO 10819 121111Z

TO COASTLINE, IT FALLS SLIGHTLY FARTHER WEST.

END FYI. COMPANY IS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED BECAUSE
LEASE FOR THAT AREA EXPIRES UNLESS DRILLING IS
COMMENCED PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER 21.

3. ALTERNATIVE LOCATION, WHICH CRAIG SAYS HAS
ONLY TEN PERCENT CHANCE OF BEING UTILIZED, IS AT
SITE 391 (LATITUDE 27 DEGREES, 52 MINUTES,
05.92 NORTH, LONGITUDE 33 DEGREES, 41 MINUTES,
49.09 EAST). COMPANY SAYS THAT THIS POINT IS WELL
WEST OF MEDIAN LINE, BUT THERE HAVE BEEN EARLIER
DIFFICULTIES WITH ISRAELIS AS RESULT EXPLORATION
ACTIVITIES.

4. CRAIG HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT IF SERIOUS PROBLEMS
CAN BE ANTICIPATED, COMPANY WOULD PROBABLY
ABANDON IDEA OF MOVING TO SITE DESCRIBED PARA 2
ABOVE. HE RECOGNIZES THAT THIS MAY CAUSE HIM
PROBLEMS WITH EGYPTIANS, IF HE CLAIMS FORCE
MAJEUR AS JUSTIFICATION FOR NOT CARRYING OUT
REQUIRED EXPLORATION, BUT HAS NO DESIRE TO PUT
COMPANY AND USG IN DIFFICULT POSITION MERELY FOR
PURPOSES OF COMPLYING WITH TERMS OF LEASE.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S
ASSESSMENT OF LIKELIHOOD OF PROBLEMS SO THAT WE
CAN ADVISE AMOCO ASAP. AMOCO IS NOT AT THIS STAGE ASKING
USG TO NOTIFY ISRAEL OF INTENDED EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES, BUT
IS SEEKING PRELIMINARY ADVICE FROM US ON ANTICIPATED ISRAELI
REACTION.

6. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH DCM AUGUST 11, LOCAL MANAGER OF
OCEANIC RED SEA CO., WHICH IS DOING EXPLORATION WORK FOR
GUPCO OFF RAS SHUKAIR, SAID THAT HIS COMPANY HAS ALSO EXPERIENCED
HARASSMENT FROM ISRAELIS WHENEVER THEIR SHIPS CROSSED MEDIAN LINE.
HE EXPRESSED ON PERSONAL BASIS DESIRE FOR PUBLIC USG POSITION ON
OIL EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES BY AMERICAN COMPANIES IN GULF OF SUEZ
EAST OF MEDIAN LINE.
EILTS

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SHIP HARASSMENT, EXPLORATORY DRILLING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CAIRO10819
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760310-0520
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760861/aaaacbks.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 CAIRO 10517
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <08 OCT 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMOCO GULF OF SUEZ EXPLORATION: ISRAELI HARRASSMENT
TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, EG, IS, AMOCO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006